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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Germany (East Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Erfurt-Bindersleben Airfield

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25X1X

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 13 December 1950

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

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1. The Erfurt-Bindersleben (M 51/J 26) airfield was not occupied on 31 October 1950. An engineer who was surveying the area near the destroyed hangars on the southern edge of the field said that he had to finish his work by 4 November 1950. He stated further that the field was to be reconstructed and that an E-W runway about 3 km long was to be built. The Soviets had allegedly fixed a four-month deadline for the completion of the construction project. The surveying work also indicated the possible construction of a N-S runway. * A Soviet air unit was allegedly stationed at the field during the maneuvers in the fall of 1950. **
2. No Soviets were at the field between 8:30 a.m. and noon on 4 November. Local residents said that the field had been evacuated about ten days before. *** The area of the field was guarded by a German civilian, who said that aircraft were recently stationed at the field, that the Soviets were daily trucked toward Erfurt after the flying activity, and only a small guard detail remained at the field during the night. He also said that he himself, although in the possession of a special pass, was not allowed to enter the field while it was occupied. German engineers had allegedly surveyed the field during good weather. The area was to be expanded considerably and most of the installations and buildings were to be reconditioned.
3. No construction work was in process at the field. Three barn-like structures with concrete floors, the roofs of which were supported only by pillars, were on the western edge of the field. The fuel dump was in these structures when the field was occupied. A loading ramp was just south of the buildings, near the former railroad siding of which only the roadbed of broken stones still existed.

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Comment. The information confirms that surveying was being done at the field for an expansion of the landing field. This was previously reported by two sources.

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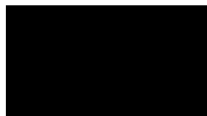
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The implied construction of a firm runway is reported for the first time. The period of four months for the completion of the construction work is believed too short. On the basis of previous experiences, such a construction project will take about ten months. It is, however, possible that the term can be reduced if an increased work force is employed.

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** ~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~ Comment. The occupation of the field in the fall of 1950 was previously reported. ~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~. The field was used by an air transport regiment and a ground attack regiment.

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*** ~~SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~ Comment. The field was evacuated by the ground attack regiment on 26 October 1950.

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